District Council of
ORROROO
CARRIETON

Plan of Management relating to Dogs and Cats

2023/24-2028/29

Approved by Dog and Cat Management Board:	9/5/2024
Date Plan comes into effect:	9/11/2024
Review Date:	May 2028

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Orroroo is located in the mid north of South Australia, approximately 3 hours' drive north of Adelaide and one hour east of Port Augusta and intersects two major transport routes from the eastern states of Australia and Northern Territory and Western Australia. The region also boasts access to rail networks for the transport of goods to the North, East and West of the Country. The District has two major towns Orroroo and Carrieton with smaller historical locations of Eurelia, Black Rock, Yatina, Pekina, Johnburgh and Belton.

This Animal Management Plan has been prepared by the District Council of Orroroo Carrieton (the **Council**) in accordance with section 26A of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* (the **Act**) to provide a planned approach to undertaking its responsibilities pursuant to the Act.

The Animal Management Plan takes effect once approved by the Dog and Cat Management Board (the **Board**).

The Plan aims to establish management guidelines to create an environment which encourages responsible pet ownership, where people and pets integrate safely and harmoniously within the community.

The Plan aims to:

- encourage responsible dog and cat ownership
- reduce, to the extent practicable, the public and environmental nuisance caused by cats and dogs
- promote the effective management of dogs and cats, whilst focusing on the need to educate the community in respect of the laws as they relate to the management of dogs and cats
- recognise and support benefits of dog and cat ownership..

Vision Statement

The Council at all times seeks to:

- promote and facilitate responsible ownership of dogs and cats;
- recognises the benefits of animal companionship;
- ensure the needs of animals and their owners are accommodated, in a way that balances the differing needs of non-pet owners of the community.

BACKGROUND

The Council has adopted this Animal Management Plan, pursuant to section 26A of the Act, for the management of dogs and cats in the community.

The Plan is intended to complement the Act, which operates to prescribe the requirements that attach to owning a dog or cat. This includes requirements for:

- mandatory registration of dogs. The Council has adopted a By-law for Cats and may choose to establish a registration scheme for cats under that By-law;
- mandatory microchipping of all dogs and cats;
- mandatory desexing that applies to all dogs and cats born after 1 July 2018;
- Breeder Registration and the new provisions about the sale and advertising of dogs and cats;
- where a Control Order has been issued by the Council in relation to a dog, the dog to be managed in accordance with the requirements of the Control Order.

THE LAW/GUIDELINES

As above, the Act and the *Dog and Cat Management Regulations 2017* establishes the legislative framework to be adhered to in relation to the management of dogs and cats within the community.

The Council delegates powers under the Act to the Chief Executive Officer who, in-turn, with the approval of Council, sub-delegates these powers to relevant Officers within the organisation.

Certain Council officers, known as compliance officers, are appointed under the Act as authorised persons. These officers have powers under the Act to assist the Council in enforcing and administering the Act within its area. This includes powers to seize and detain dogs in accordance with the Act, which includes (but is not limited to) in circumstances where a dog is wandering at large or is considered to be unduly dangerous.

The Council's Compliance Officers report directly to the Manager of Corporate & Community Services.

<u>Enforcement Provisions:</u>

- The Act requires the Council to enforce the provisions of the Act within the area of the Council. The approach of the Council in the first instance will be to encourage people to understand their responsibilities of pet ownership and comply with the provisions of the Act voluntarily.
- However, the community has an expectation that public areas are monitored to ensure that the provisions of the Act are complied with and that appropriately trained and authorised persons are available to respond to concerns of the community and serious breaches of the Act and Council's Dogs By-Laws and Cats By-Laws.
- Council will allocate appropriate resources to provide after-hours services for emergency situations. Attendance after-hours will be at the discretion of the on-call officer.
- The Chief Executive Officer is appointed as the Registrar under the Act.
- Council will respond as appropriate and within its resources to calls/complaints from members of the public regarding possible non-compliance with the provisions of the Act and Council By-Laws.

REVENUE

Pursuant to Section 25 of the Act, the Board administers the Dog and Cat Management Fund (the **Fund**). The Council, at the time of writing this Plan, is required to contribute 12% of revenue raised through dog registration fees to the Fund.

Each year, the Council determines its dog fee structure and then informs the Board of the proposed fee structure. The fees include rebate for standard dogs and discretionary rebates offered by Council for non-standard dogs. The fee structure is specified within the Council's Fees and Charges Register that is available on Council's Website under 'About Council' – 'Policies & Procedures' and is called the 'Fees and Charges Policy'.

COUNCIL'S MANAGEMENT OF DOGS

Dog Registration

The statewide online portal, known as Dogs and Cats Online (**DACO**) replaced individual Council registers in 2018, and is managed by the Board.

Dog owners pay registration fees online via DACO and, upon first registering a dog, receive a registration disc. The disc is required to be displayed on the dog. Registration must be renewed annually via DACO.

The Board fully funds DACO through an increase in the percentage of dog registration fees remitted to the Board.

Pursuant to Section 33 of the Act, dogs of or over 3 months of age must be registered. Expiation fees apply to unregistered dogs so it is important that dog owners ensure that all dogs they own are registered and that the registration is renewed by the due date.

Dog owners are also required to desex all dogs born after 1 July 2018 by the age of six months, or within twenty-eight (28) days of when the dog owner takes possession of the dog.

Detention arrangements of dogs seized

Council has a secured holding area for dogs that are seized and detained by the Council, which is the Animal Pound, Orroroo.

Procedures for Impounded dogs

Dogs may be seized under the Act for any of the grounds specified under section 60 of the Act. If a dog is seized, Council Officers endeavour to identify the owner of the dog by checking for a microchip or any other visible signs, such as a dog name tag with contact details or alternatively, a Council Dog Registration Disc. If the owner can be identified then the dog will either be returned to the owner or contact will be made with the owner to collect their pet from the Council's detention facility.

If an owner cannot be identified, the dog will be detained for at least 72 hours, after which the Council is authorised to dispose of an unclaimed dog as it sees fit. In this case, officers will, if the dog is suitable to be rehomed, try to rehome the dog or otherwise pass the dog onto a Pet Rescue Group. If these options are not available then consideration may be given to the dog being humanely euthanized.

When a dog is detained Council will follow the notice requirements of the Act and all reasonable efforts will be made to locate the owner of the dog, including by way of:

- Notice placed on notice board with all details at Council's main office (17 Second Street, Orroroo) and
- notice being included on the District Council of Orroroo Carrieton Facebook Page

By-Laws

Council's By-Law No. 5 of 2023 specifically relates to Dogs. This By-Law was made on 27 September 2023 and commenced operation on 5 February 2024. The By-Law limits the number of dogs kept on premises, enables the Council to prescribe dog on-leash and dog prohibited areas and provides for the management and control of dogs in the Council area.

Council's By-Law No. 6 of 2023 specifically relates to Cats. This By-Law was also made on 27 September 2023 and commenced operation on 5 February 2024. The By-Law limits the number of cats kept on premises, enables the Council to establish a registration scheme for cats (if it considers appropriate) and creates offences for nuisance cat conduct, for example, where a cat wanders onto property without consent of the occupier of the premises.

A copy of the Dogs By-Law and the Cats can be found on the Council's website at www.orroroo.sa.gov.au under 'About Council' 'Policies and Procedures'.

OTHER PARTNERSHIPS

Although Council does not have any formal partnerships with other organisations relating to rehoming suitable animals, Council's Compliance Officer does work closely with several organisations to rehome suitable animals.

The Council has worked with a local veterinary clinic to provide microchipping of dogs and cats with the holding of a clinic in Orroroo. This reduced the need for owners to transport their pet to a neighbouring vet clinic. It is envisaged that this partnership will continue into the future.

COUNCIL'S MANAGEMENT OF CATS

Unlike dogs, the Act does not prescribe notice and detention timeframes where cats are seized. To protect the lives of cats, it is in the best interest of the owner to ensure that cats are microchipped and the owner's name and address are registered on Dogs and Cats Online, so that any lost cat can be returned home quickly and safely. Cat owners are required to desex all cats born after 1 July 2018 and by the age of six months.

As above, the Council has also made a Cats By-law that specifies requirements the management and control of cats within the Council's area.

It is in the interest of cat owners to ensure their cats are contained on their premises and do not wander.

OBJECTIVES / STRATEGIES / MEASURES (KPI)

8.1	COUNCIL OPERATIONS		
a) Council authorised officers have capacity to administer and enforce the Dog and Cat Management Act			
	Objective	**Strategies**	**Measures**
i.	Appropriately Trained Employees acting under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995	Staff undertakes training, as required under the Dog and Cat Management Act and Dog handling. Yearly reviews of staff training which would benefit employees and Council.	Type and number of training sessions attended.
b) Education of the community			
	Objective	**Strategies**	**Measures**
i.	Greater knowledge of the dog and cat legislative provisions	Promotion of the need for breeders to be registered with the Dog and Cat Management Board.	Number of promotional activities undertaken.
ii.		Promotion of the need for dogs and cats over 6 months of age to be desexed.	Number and types of promotional activities undertaken. Number of new generation dogs and cats desexed annually
iii.		Promotion of the need for all dog and cats three months of age or older to be microchipped.	Number and types of promotional activities undertaken. Number of dogs and cats three months of age or older microchipped annually. Annual reduction in dogs and cats found not microchipped or desexed. Annual reduction in nuisance cat complaints.
iv.	Proactive education of pet owners to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities	Implement various campaigns, such as Wandering Dog and Cat Campaigns and benefits of identification to highlight various issues relating to responsibility pet ownership.	Number and type of campaigns undertaken annually. Annual reduction in Dog and Cats Wandering at Large. Annual reduction in dogs and cats found not microchipped or desexed.
v.		Participate at community events with other local organisations to promote dog and cat ownership and encourage positive behaviours of pets and their owners.	Events participated in and target audience.
vi.		Provide educational material for display and circulation. Providing updates in local newsletters and social media.	Number of pamphlets/brochures circulated. Feedback from the community.
vii.	Ensure up to date promotional materials are available.	Regularly review and update promotional material to ensure it is accurate.	Types and promotional material provided.

c) Effective Reporting and Management Structures			
	Objective	**Strategies**	**Measures**
i.	Maintain appropriate reporting mechanisms for all reporting requirements under the Act to ensure timely reporting to the Board.	Implement reporting system for compliance with regulatory provisions. Ensure Council's Dog Incident Reports are uploaded to DACO	Reporting System developed and implemented Number and type of reports generated.
d) Community awareness of pet ownership benefits and responsibilities			
	Objective	**Strategies**	**Measures**
i.	Encourage Council's and Local Rescue Groups 'Responsible Pet Ownership Scheme'	Undertake community awareness activities, using various communication mediums, to highlight the benefits and responsibilities of pet ownership.	Number of activities completed. Types of communication mediums used to advertise
ii.	Provide links on Council's Website to other appropriate websites for easy access to relevant services.	Provide links on Council's Website to other appropriate websites about dogs and cats to facilitate access to relevant services and information.	Number of links listed on Council Website and names of Groups/Services.
iii.	Community adequately informed of Dogs Off-Leash areas.	Review and update the Dogs Off-leash areas.	Schedule of Off-Leash areas reviewed and attached to Animal Management Plan and advertised on Council's Website.
e) Visitor Information/Facilities			
	Objective	**Strategies**	**Measures**
i.	Provide relevant information to various services within the area of the Council to ensure visitors are aware of Dog and Cat Management services that are available	Supply Brochures to accommodation facilities including caravan/cabin parks on dog off- leash areas within the Council area.	Number of facilities provided with brochures.

f) Registration of Breeders

	Objective	Strategies	Measures
i.	Promote the requirement for all breeders to be registered with the Board	Actively investigate any pup and kitten litters identified for sale and ensure that the owners are registered with the Board.	Reduction in the number of owners selling pups and kittens who are not registered breeders.
ii.		Promote the requirement for all owners having to be registered with the Board if their dog or cat has a litter of pups or kittens.	Number of promotional activities undertaken. Number of expiation notices issued for breach of the Act.

8.2 DOG MANAGEMENT

a) Dog Registration

	Objective	Strategies	Measures
i.	High level of dog registration achieved	Promote dog registrations annually	Reduction in dogs not registered.
ii.	Increased knowledge of legislative provisions around registration by community	Undertake door knocks or telephone calls to identify and ensure any unregistered dog is registered	Number of door knocks undertaken and number of dogs identified and registered as a result.

b) Mandatory Microchip Identification

	Objective	Strategies	Measures
i.	Provide incentives to the community to assist in microchipping programs	Partner with Council's local service provider to offer discounted microchipping days.	Annual reduction in the number of dogs and cats found not to be microchipped.
ii.	Educate residents about the mandatory microchipping requirements	Mail out information about mandatory microchipping with dog renewals. Use Council website and social media to post information.	Number of times educational information is distributed. Number of different formats used to distribute the information. Feedback from community.

c) Mandatory Desexing

	Objective	Strategies	Measures
i.	Provide incentives to the community to assist in desexing programs	Partner with Council's local service provider to offer discounted desexing days.	Annual reduction in the number of dogs and cats found not to be desexed.

ii.	Increase awareness of benefits of desexing Monitor compliance with the mandatory desexing requirements	Encourage Council's local service provider to promote the benefit of dog desexing. Distribution of information on the benefits of desexing at Council Offices and other locations Enforce the Standard dog registration rebate by requiring proof of both desexing and microchipping for the rebate	Promotional material provided by Council. Reduction in the number if expiations issued for noncompliance with mandatory desexing requirements over time Percentage reduction in numbers of non desexed dogs arriving in the pound overtime

d) Wandering At Large

	Objective	**Strategies**	**Measures**
i.	Reduced number of dogs wandering at large	Respond wherever practicable to complaints regarding wandering dogs to ensure safety of the public.	Number of reports followed up regarding wandering.
ii.	Identification of Dogs wandering at large	Continue to conduct random patrols of all public places and detain dogs found to be wandering at large.	Number of dogs seized.
iii.	Return of registered or identified dogs found wandering at large to their owners	Use all avenues available to identify and return dogs wandering at large to owners.	Number of dogs return to owners.
iv.	Advertise events where fireworks, or weather could impact on number of dogs wandering at large	Proactively promote events and other activities as a reminder to pet owners to secure their pets, as necessary.	Types of advertising undertaken.

e) Faeces Management

	Objective	**Strategies**	**Measures**
i.	Pet owners remove all faeces from public places when exercising their pets	Provide and promote facilities (doggie-do bins dispensers) to ensure collection of faeces in public spaces by pet owners. Carry out random inspections of Council areas. Install signs.	Types of facilities provided. Reduction in fines issued for faeces breaches.

f) Barking Dogs

	Objective	Strategies	Measures
i.	Reduction in the number of complaints regarding barking dogs.	Provide information to owners of dogs where a complaint has been received regarding their pet barking and highlight various methods to control barking. Educational information provided through the Goyder's Line Gazette in relation to the reasons why dogs bark and how to address the issue. Require re-offenders relating to barking dogs to attend an 'approved training course' to address barking as part of a Control Order.	Number of complaints received and resolved. Identify number of reoffending complaints. Number of Articles published. Number of re-offenders required to attend 'approved training course'.

g) Attacks and harassments reporting

	Objective	Strategies	Measures
i.	Decrease in dog attacks	Promote the consequences of dog attacks and prevention strategies.	Number of dog attack reports. Types of prevention strategies information provided.
ii.	Dog attacks and harassment as reported and acted upon	Promote and encourage the reporting of all dog attacks and harassment whether in a public place or on private property. All reported dog incidents logged on DCMB system approved by the Board.	Number of attacks reported.

h) Exercise and Enrichment of Dogs

	Objective	Strategies	Measures
i.	Provide effective management and a suitable environment for dogs within the community	Education of the community of the importance of exercise and enrichment and things they can do for their pets.	Feedback from the dog owners in relation to dog areas.

i) Impounded Dogs

	Objective	Strategies	Measures
i.	Continue to promote the rehoming program of dogs suitable for rehoming. *(A dog suitable for rehoming would have no aggressive or behavioural traits and assessed on a case by case basis).*	Advertise any dogs for rehoming through Councils rehoming program if seized and not claimed.	Number of Dogs successfully rehomed.

j)	Dog By-law		
	Objective	**Strategies**	**Measures**
i.	Dog By-law outlines a number of provisions for the control and management of dogs.	Review of Council's Dog By-Law to be undertaken in 2029/2030	By-Law review completed and new by-law made with effect from by 1 January 2031.

8.3	CAT MANAGEMENT		
a)	**Mandatory Microchip Identification**		
	Objective	**Strategies**	**Measures**
i.	Provide incentives to the community to assist in microchipping programs	Partner with Council's local service provider to offer discounted microchipping days.	Reduction in the number of cats found not to be microchipped.
b)	**Mandatory Desexing**		
	Objective	**Strategies**	**Measures**
i.	Provide incentives to the community to assist in desexing programs	Partner with Council's local service provider to offer discounted desexing days	Reduction in the number of cats found not to be desexed.
ii.	Increase awareness of benefits of desexing	Encourage Council's local service provider to promote the benefit of cat desexing.	Promotional material provided by Council
c)	**Owner responsibility**		
	Objective	**Strategies**	**Measures**
i.	Appropriate surrender of kittens	Work with Council's local service provider to promote desexing of older breeding cats to reduce number of unwanted litters.	Reduced number of kitten litters surrendered annually.
ii.	Increased awareness of owner responsibility and types of enclosures available to reduce wandering cats	Pamphlets provided to owners of seized cats to enable them to consider an appropriate enclosure to secure their pet onsite.	Number of pamphlets issued.

d) Cat Trap Hire			
	Objective	**Strategies**	**Measures**
i.	Proactively manage feral and wandering cat issues within the Council area	Cat Traps are available for hire as required	Number of cat traps hired annually. Number of cats.
ii.		Cat Traps made available, at authorised officers discretion where feral cat infestation is high.	Number of cat traps provided free of charge.
iii		Undertake an education program on semi-owned cats to encourage people to either fully adopt cats they feed or to hand them in to Council.	Number of cats fully adopted. Number of cats handed into Council and euthanised.

e) Receiving seized cats and impounding Cats			
	Objective	**Strategies**	**Measures**
i	Appropriate management of cats trapped	Enter in contract with a local service provider who will endeavour to identify the cat and either return, rehome or euthanize the animal as determined on a case by case basis.	Number of cats trapped. Number of cats returned, rehomed or euthanized annually

f) Cat By-Law			
	Objective	**Strategies**	**Measures**
i.	Cat By-law outlines a number of provisions for the control and management of cats.	Review Council's Cat By-Law to be undertaken in 2029/2030	By-Law review completed and new by-law made with effect from by 1 January 2031.

OFF LEASH AREAS

Dog owners can choose to exercise their dogs off leash within the two Parks within the Orroroo Carrieton Council area as shown below in the aerial photographs:

- Orroroo Recreation Ground
- Carrieton Recreation Ground

Orroroo

Carrieton

It is noted that only off-leash park areas have been identified at this point in time in Orroroo and Carrieton. There has been no demand for on-leash parks by members of the community. The Council may, where is considers appropriate, establish dog prohibited and on-leash areas under it Dogs By-law.

RELATED DOCUMENTS / APPENDICES

Council:
Strategic & Community Plan 2023-2033
By Law No 5 – Dogs 2023
By Law No 6 - Cats 2023

Dog & Cat Management Board:
Council Secure Site

FOR ADOPTION